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REVIEWS.

Appleton's New Practical Cyclopedia. A New Work of Reference Based Upon the Best Authorities, and Systematically Arranged for Use in Home and School. Edited by Marcus Benjamin, Ph.D., Sc.D., F.C.S., Editor of the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., Assisted by Arthur E. Bostwick, Ph.D., Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library; Gerald van Casteel, Chief of Editorial Staff, and George J. Hagar, Expert Compiler and Statistician, with an Introduction by Elmer Ellsworth Brown, Ph.D., LL.D., United States Commissioner of Education. Six volumes. Pp. 3040. Price, buckram, \$18.00; half morocco, \$24.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1910.

Having had experience in creating six cyclopedias varying in subject and scope, Appleton's have brought out a reference work for use in the home and school. It is properly designated "practical" instead of popular; for, while there are but six volumes, every effort has been made to create a comprehensive and concise work instead of a superficial one. The articles are written in non-technical language that may be understood by school children and by adults of average education. It is not a cyclopedia for the specialist, but for the general student and general reader. The low price of the six volumes will permit the work to be secured by all schools and prosperous homes and will greatly increase its "practical" value.

The character and the educational purpose of this "practical" cyclopedia, as contrasted with the many-volumed expensive works that seek to include an entire reference library in a single set of books, are well stated by the editor in the following quotation from the preface:

"The following of the conventional idea of what a cyclopedia should be, rather than a consideration of the actual use to which the work is to be put, has too often resulted in a collection of learned treatises, useful to specialists, but of little service to most of those who refer to their pages for information. The cost of such works is to many prohibitive; the immense amount of detail which they contain is wearisome, and too often obscures the information which is sought. Except in public libraries they are apt to be carefully guarded in the bookcase instead of being used currently by the owner and his family, and they give little aid in the habit of acquiring exact knowledge upon current topics, which, if consistently followed, is a most liberal and practical form of education. At the other extreme, are the briefer 'popular' cyclopedias, hurriedly compiled from whatever sources are available, with scanty, and inappropriate illustrations, and with a few showy 'selling points,' but with no attempt at serious preparation. The publishers of 'Appleton's New Practical Cyclopedia' feel that there is a place for a brief, serviceable work of reference which combines moderate size and low price with comprehensiveness, accuracy, and authority."

In addition to the characteristics of conciseness, comprehensiveness and low price, the "practical" value of the work is increased by two other features—the illustrations and the indexes. The editor claims, with apparent accuracy, that "the present work is unrivaled in the number, range; and

appropriateness of its illustrations." There are over 1,500 textual illustrations, 24 full-page maps, 24 full-page colored plates, and 24 black and white plates consisting of group and graphic illustrations. The pictures are numerous, but are not a conspicuous part of the volume; they are, for the most part, reproductions of drawings that illustrate and supplement the text. The half-tones and colored plates are not so numerous nor so conspicuous as to make them "selling points." The maps are doubtless as good as could be included in a cyclopedia of the size and price of the present work; but they are on a small scale and the data upon them are presented in the manner that has long prevailed among American map-makers. Possibly in future editions of the work, the publishers may feel financially justified in substituting a higher grade of maps.

The two indexes add much to the usefulness of the cyclopedia. In an analytical index is presented, "in proper alphabetical order, subjects which are not assigned individual articles in the body of the work, but which are treated as parts of articles found under some other key word." Thus if a subject is not found upon consulting the body of the work, it may be located by referring to the analytical index. In the synthetical index are grouped, under appropriate headings, all the articles bearing upon each important topic. Thus, from the index, the student may readily find all the information upon each subject discussed in the cyclopedia.

In a word, the work is a practical cyclopedia of moderate scope; and it seems probable that the publishers will realize their "hope that the work will be found especially helpful to the student, and to the busy man wishing to obtain quickly the essential facts upon the subject in which he is interested."

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Cory, G. E. *The Rise of South Africa.* Vol I. Pp. xxi, 420. Price, \$5.00. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910.

Mr. Cory's book is excellent. It represents the beginning of a work which is to reach four volumes. Seventeen years have been spent in the work, which, though undertaken as a recreation, shows the marks of thoroughness. The style is flowing, citations accurate and the point of view judicial. The discussions in the latter part of the book naturally include race conflicts in which especially at this distance of time the truth is hard to ascertain since all accounts are partisan. Mr. Cory has shown himself in these chapters (especially the one treating the affair of Slagter's Nek) to be both fair and sympathetic.

The history of South Africa begins in the Age of Discovery. The Cape was first an obstacle to be rounded, later a victualling station, then an outpost, with the native problems that confronted the conquerors in all parts of the globe. The early struggles, up to the French Revolution, occupy only the first two chapters. The rest of the volume covers the period up to 1820—a period complicated by internal discussions, native wars and successive